

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Atsushi FUNABIKI, et al.

PCT Appln. No.: PCT/JP01/03223

Confirmation No.: Not Yet Assigned

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: December 14, 2001

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: POSITIVE ACTIVE MATERIAL FOR SECONDARY BATTERY, PROCESS FOR PREPARATION THEREOF AND NON-AQUEOUS ELECTROLYTE SECONDARY BATTERY COMPRISING SAME

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
 Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

**Page 5, Please amend the First Full Paragraph as follows:**

Further, since the high-crystalline  $\beta$ -FeOOH is a needle-like crystal having a great aspect ratio, the use of this material as an active material provides a reduced contact area between the particles. Accordingly, a large amount of an electrically-conducting agent is required to improve the electrical conductivity between the particles. As a result, the number of the active material per unit volume within an electrode is lowered, which is disadvantage.

**Page 5, Please Amend the Second Full Paragraph as follows:**

On the contrary, in accordance with the present invention which uses an amorphous  $\beta$ -FeOOH having a particle with an aspect ratio of not greater than 5, the particles can be packed densely, resulting in the improvement of the contact between the particles. Accordingly, the amount of the electrically-conducting agent to be added can be reduced, resulting in the increase in the number of the active material per unit volume within an electrode. Further, since the